

REMARKS

Claims 19 through 25 are currently pending in the application. Claim 18 has been canceled. Claims 19 through 25 have been presented so as to provide the Applicant with a scope of protection commensurate with his contribution to the art. Applicant submits that support for the new claims can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not show clampless connection of a boot seal in the manner set forth in Claims 19 through 25 and that the art does not recognize clampless connections to be interchangeable or equivalent with clamp connections.

It is Applicant's position that clampless connection and clamp connections are not viewed by the art as being equivalent, that there is no suggestion for the combination of references cited by the Examiner and that even if the references were to be combined, they would not produce the claimed invention. Regarding the latter point, Applicant notes that the flange seal is received into the groove that is formed on the shaft and that the lips (12A, 12B, 12C) of the Krude et al. reference are configured to seal against a straight cylindrical shaft (not in a groove) so that they may axially translate as the angle of the shaft changes. Such configuration is not desirable as it


would permit the annular lip to translate with the second shaft rather than to remain fixed to the first shaft.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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